1	2	3
South Central	Secunderabad (2), Guntur	3
South Eastern	Tatanagar	1
South East Central	Bilaspur, Raipur	2
South Western	Bangalore (2), Mysore	3
Western	Churchgate (3), Marine Lines, Charni Road (2), Grant Road (2), Mumbai Central (2), Mahalaxmi, Dadar (3), Bandra (3), Santa Cruz, Vile Parle (2), Andheri (4), Goregaon (2), Malad, Kandivli (2), Borivilli (3), Ahmedabad, Baroda (2), Anand	36
West Central	Kota, Bhopal (2), Habibganj (2), Jabalpur	6
TOTAL:		86

Damage of crops by insects

†*62. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops worth about Rupees ninety thousand crores are damaged every year by insects;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to prevent the damage being caused by these insects;

(c) the steps taken by Government during the last one year for easy availability of insecticides; and

(d) the quantity of insecticides used per hectare in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There are no scientific estimates of crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases, as the damage depends on various factors *inter-alia*, weather conditions, crop cultural practices, plant protection practices etc. However, the crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases is approximately

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

assessed to be ranging between 10 to 30% of crop production, depending on the factors indicated above.

(b) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Central Integrated Pest Management Centers have been established across the country to, *inter-alia*, undertake pest surveillance and provide advisories to the State Governments on pest management, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools, encourage use of biological means of pest management, etc. The package of practices of IPM for major crops have been developed and circulated to all States and the Union Territories. These packages have also been made available on the web site of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the use of extension fuctionaries and farmers.

(c) The Government is promoting judicious use of pesticides through its policy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, registers pesticides after being satisfied of their efficacy and safety. The Registration Committee has framed simplified guidelines for the registration of pesticides especially in respect of bio-pesticides. The quality assurance of pesticides is ensured through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples through a network of Pesticide Testing Laboratories. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for establishing and strengthening Pesticide Testing Laboratories. The State Governments have been advised to enforce the provisions of the Insecticides Act in order to prevent sale of spurious pesticides. The availability of the insecticides is reviewed with the States before Kharif and Rabi every year in the Zonal Conferences.

(d) It has been assessd that 39773 MT of Technical grade pesticide has been used during 2005-06. Based on gross cropped area, per hectare use of pesticides comes to 208 g.

Prices of essential items

*63. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of foodgrains is increasing day by day